



The Blurb



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

60 Years of Public Service, 1949 to 2009

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www.phil-mont.org

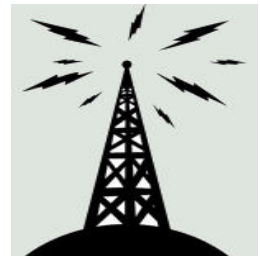
March 2009

Whew!



is just around the corner,

when every ham's fancy turns to ...



Antennas!



And homebrew spudguns
complete with *Armstrong* charging system!

Hey, it ain't pretty, but it works.

Daylight Saving Time begins March 8th.

The Spring equinox is on the 20th.

And...

W3AA/60 is on the air!

But HF operators are still needed!

<i>The Blurb</i> is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. <i>Copying and quoting</i> is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. <i>Subscriptions</i> are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer. Editor: Rick DeVirgiliis KB3JWK kb3jwk@arrl.net 215-908-7225 Club Archivist: Gwen Patton NG3P ng3p@arrl.net 610-630-9862 Labels and mailing: WB3KOJ & WB3KOH <u>Submissions deadline:</u> All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.	Directors: W3AOK (09) WA3KIO (09) N3XKE (09) N3MT (10) KB2ERL (10) KB3IV (10) NS3K (A)	Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 88 Abington, PA 19001 http://www.phil-mont.org Webmistress: Maggie K3XS k3xs@arrl.net For club information: Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: wb3koj@comcast.net
	<i>Sunday Morning Net Schedules</i> • 2 Meter/ 70cm Net..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater • 10-on-10 Net at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM) • 75 meter Net at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB • ARES at 2100L on the W3QV repeater	

Committees Archives: NG3P Audit: NS3K Awards: open Blurb folding: WB3KOJ & WB3KOH Directory: WB3KOJ	DX: N3MT Emerg. Coord: K3HWE Field Day: KE3QB Internet: K3XS Membership: N3XKE Net Control: KB3IV Publicity: W3RM	Program: Club VP Public Service: KE3QB Refreshments: W3AOK Repeater: W3AOK Skywarn: WX3PHI Sunshine: N3GLU	TVI: W3VVS VE Program: NS3K W3AA Trustee: WU3I Welcome: N3UBY Youth: N3MT
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All visitors are welcome!

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at **Roxborough Memorial Hospital, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128**
Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org

License Examinations are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at

Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002

Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or jmccloskey@msn.com for the latest information.

Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System

Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**

147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz

Reach us on EchoLink through WU3I-L

W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: W3VVS

The Officers

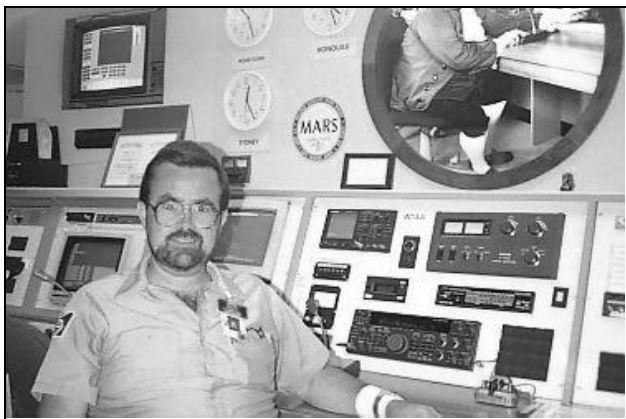
President: WU3I Steve Hoch, 546 Monastery Ave, Philadelphia PA 19128 wu3i@arrl.net

Vice President: N3QV Eric D. Marano, PO BOX 233, Skippack PA 19474 n3qv@arrl.net

Secretary: W3STW Al Tribble wstw@juno.com

Treasurer: W3RM Richard A. Moll roger.mike@verizon.net

Asst. Treasurer: N3MT Michael P. Taraborrelli michaelmt_1999@yahoo.com

The Prez Sez...

Hello March and where are the warmer temperatures? Well we all are full of the Cold and Snow, even though we did not get that much Snow. I'm looking forward to the end of the month and a trip down to Maryland for the Timonium Hamfest on the 27th and 28th. Looks to be a nice spring and I hope to get some antenna work done. Now is the time to check that Field Day and Emergency equipment and make sure it's all in working order for the upcoming season. The club is still looking for Volunteers to operate W3AA/60 for this calendar year, please let any officer know. Hope to see you at the meeting!

de Steve, WU3I



*This month's test session is on the 26th.
Results weren't available at press time.*

Don't forget, adopt a pet!

***March Birthdays***

- 01 John Furlong – KC2TUT*
 - 06 Tina Furlong (XYL KC2TUT*)
 - 09 Fayette Toren (XYL N2MT)
 - 13 Rosemary Canuso (XYL N2ATB)
 - 15 Dottie Scialdone-Maresca - K3YPH
 - 16 Susan Vece (XYL W2AJV)
 - 18 Ed Losco - N3DLV
 - 21 Ben Roeshman - W3LKI
 - 23 Henry Platt - W3UI
 - 27 William (Red) MacKenzie - W3RED
 - 28 Barbara Stein (XYL KB3AFH)
 - Tony Canuso – N2ATB
 - 30 Robert H. Rose – KB3RTZ*
- *New member 2008*

MEMBERSHIP STATS

Will resume in April.

LAST CALL

**IF YOUR DUES WERE NOT PAID BY THE
END OF FEBRUARY YOUR NAME WILL
NOT APPEAR IN THE 2009 P.M.R.C.
DIRECTORY AND YOU WILL NO LONGER
RECEIVE THE BLURB.**

From the Secretary

PMRC BoD Meeting - February 4th, 2009

Ed, KB3IV started the meeting at 2000 hours. Attending were Bob, KB2ERL; Fred, WA3KIO; Eric N3QV; Dick, W3RM; Al, W3STW and Gene, N3XKE.

Dick, club Treasurer, passed out copies of the 2008 Annual Financial Report and 2009 budget draft. After a short discussion, the BoD accepted a motion to approve them.

Gene, Membership committee chair, reports one request for membership and two requests for application to join the Club. He also provided a sample W3AA/60 certificate (8 ½" x 11") and ideas for a QSL card.

Dick introduced two new features to the W3AA/60 certificate project: first, the addition of the name of each club member participating on the W3AA/60 certificate; second, participating operators could continue to use W3AA/60 the rest of the year.

Ed, KB3IV Net Control Chairman, says net control assignments are occurring about every six weeks. The call for more club members to get involved as a net control operator for the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club is ongoing.

The BoD thanks Vice President Eric, N3QV for donating free space on his server for the club website.

They also thanked Dick, W3RM, Steve, WU3I and Rick, KB3JWK for reviewing Club archive documents which may be used during the celebration of the Club's sixtieth year of operation.

Copious amounts of kudos to Rolland, W3PWG, for volunteering to operate as W3AA/60 in the August 2009 "Ten Ten" Contest.

The January Volunteer Examination report informs us that Doug, W3/G7NZZ is now KB3SFN and Rick, KB3JWK has upgraded to Extra. Congratulations from the BoD.

A motion to adjourn the BoD meeting was approved, at 2105 hours.

PMRC General Meeting Minutes – February 11th, 2009

President Steve, WU3I, called the meeting to order at 1920 hours. Treasurer Dick, W3RM, reported that the status of the Club's finances is good.

The Club thanks Steve for his efforts to raise scholarship funds through the sale of donated equipment.

Regarding the W3AA/60 project, membership chairman Gene, N3XKE, presented a copy of the type of certificate that would be sent in response to SASE requests. A QSL card is also being developed.

Congratulations to John, KC2TUT (Andrew, KC2PMW's, dad) on joining the Club. Gene also reports that Chris, N3CB, has been reinstated as a member his daughter Caitlin, W3CJB, has joined as a new youth member.

KB3IV, Ed, net control chairman reports duty to operate as a W3QV net control operator occurs about every eight weeks. A copy of the net format can be downloaded from the Club's web site.

Rick, KB3JWK, Blurbs Editor, asks for more stories like those presented by Bob, W3NE for the current and past issues of the Blurbs. Thank you Bob.

The program for the night featured a return to the time that the Club contacted the space shuttle during the STS 56 April, 1993 mission moderated by Ed, thank you Ed.

de Al W3STW, PMRC Secretary

Al led the way in January, and I joined the fun in February operating HF as W3AA/60. Doug, KB3SFN, (ex W3/G7NZZ) Andrew, KC2PMW, and Rollie, W3PWG are on the schedule too.

How about you?

If you can't operate HF, how about being a Sunday morning 2M net control station? Ed, KB3IV, will be happy to hear from you! -ed

The *Radio Stores* series continues...

Eugene G. Wile

Uptown convenience – Less than cordial

By Bob Thomas, W3NE

The Eugene Wile radio store was located in the central business district of Philadelphia, in the vicinity of 11th and Walnut Streets. It had been founded by Mr. Wile before the war and due to its handy location it attracted customers who worked in the many nearby office buildings. Show floor displays and inventory at Wile's reflected the customers' interests. They liked to browse through radio and electronics books, a variety of which were displayed on rotating racks, and look at shortwave receivers and amateur products placed around the store. After Mr. Wile passed away, the store continued operation under the management of his wife, perhaps not exactly a stern individual, but certainly a less than congenial one.

You almost *expected* to be insulted when shopping at Wile's. That tense atmosphere is exemplified by a situation involving former Phil-Mont member, the late and likeable Charles Andrews, W3IRS, popularly known as "Frenchy". Frenchy was a control room engineer at WPEN, located around 19th Street, so it was only natural when he decided to buy his first microphone, an Astatic D-104, *the* standard communications mike of the era, that he would go to the nearby Eugene Wile store.

Before continuing, time out has to be taken here to explain that Frenchy had grown up in a bi-lingual household, so an occasional mis-interpretation of an unusual word would be understandable. Anyway, he walked into Wile's on his lunch hour one day and told Mrs. Wile that he would like to buy "an *Asiatic* D-104." She exploded and replied to Frenchy in no uncertain terms that, "What you really want is an *Astatic* microphone, not *Asiatic*," with a tone that clearly implied, "you imbecile." Well, Frenchy was a sensitive fellow, and even decades later as he related that story to me, it was obvious he had been crushed to be rebuffed in such

a manner. My own experience with the store was quite limited but certainly not traumatic, having gone there perhaps two times within memory, once to buy a book on oscilloscope patterns and again for a reel of audio tape. So far as all of the oldtime radio stores in the city are concerned, I'm afraid Wile's, everything considered, was little more than a footnote, thus this brief description.

Epilogue

After writing the above account, and just before forwarding the manuscript to Editor Rick, I received the following comments in an email from Gene Pressler, W3ZXV. Inasmuch as Gene had not seen my remarks, it is interesting that his experiences at Wile's resulted in the somewhat different viewpoint of a satisfied customer.

"Wile was the store closest to where I worked. Mrs. Wile was a piece of work but she knew her business. I was a young 'know-nothing' at the time but for whatever reason, she seemed to like me and took me under her wing. The counter guy's name was Bert, I think, and he was always dressed in a suit and tie – very unusual in those days. Mrs. Wile was always on his case and he must have been related (only a relative would have taken the verbal abuse the poor guy was subjected to). I may be one of the few people who have fond memories of her." – Gene

A heads-up from Chris Brady ...

Mount Saint Joseph Academy in Flourtown, PA celebrates its 150th Anniversary.

Please look for station "W1L" over the weekend of **April 3, 4 and 5th**, as the girls of the Academy operate on 75, 40 and 20 meter SSB, PSK and SSTV, as available. Locally, a simplex operation on 446.000 MHz. FM will be active for calls and coordination on HF. A CERTIFICATE will be available for those who QSL with the appropriate SASE. QSL to Chris Brady, N3CB, via QRZ information.

March at PMRC...

- 1st** Sunday - W3STW NCS
4th Wed - Board of Directors Meeting
8th Sunday - N3OWM NCS
Spring ahead!
Daylight Savings Time begins - except
in Alaska, Hawaii and Saskatchewan!
11th Wed - General Membership Meeting
15th Sunday - KB3IV NCS
20th Fri - *Spring is here! Equinox at 1144UTC*
22nd Sunday - K3XS NCS
26th Thur - VE test session
29th Sunday - N3QV NCS

And don't forget the **ARES** net every Sunday night at 2100L on the club repeater. Larry, K3HWE, wants to hear from **you!**

Got 10? Meters that is!

I got an email from Fort Washington ham Kurt Magni, NN3C, inviting me to join a 10M group every night at 2000L on 28.480. I did so on one of my nights off and had a ragchew with Kurt and company. He asked me to invite everyone with the capability to join in so...consider yourself invited!

W3AA operators needed!

To mark PMRC's 60 years of public service a special event station will be operated all year long. The idea is to add a new member to operate HF as W3AA/60 each month. This could be weekends, weeknights or whenever you're available. Contact any officer if you'd like to get on the schedule. Stations worked will receive a certificate if they send a 9 x12 inch SASE.

First Class Mail

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc
 641 Kismet Road Philadelphia PA 19115

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